



# Uncivilized

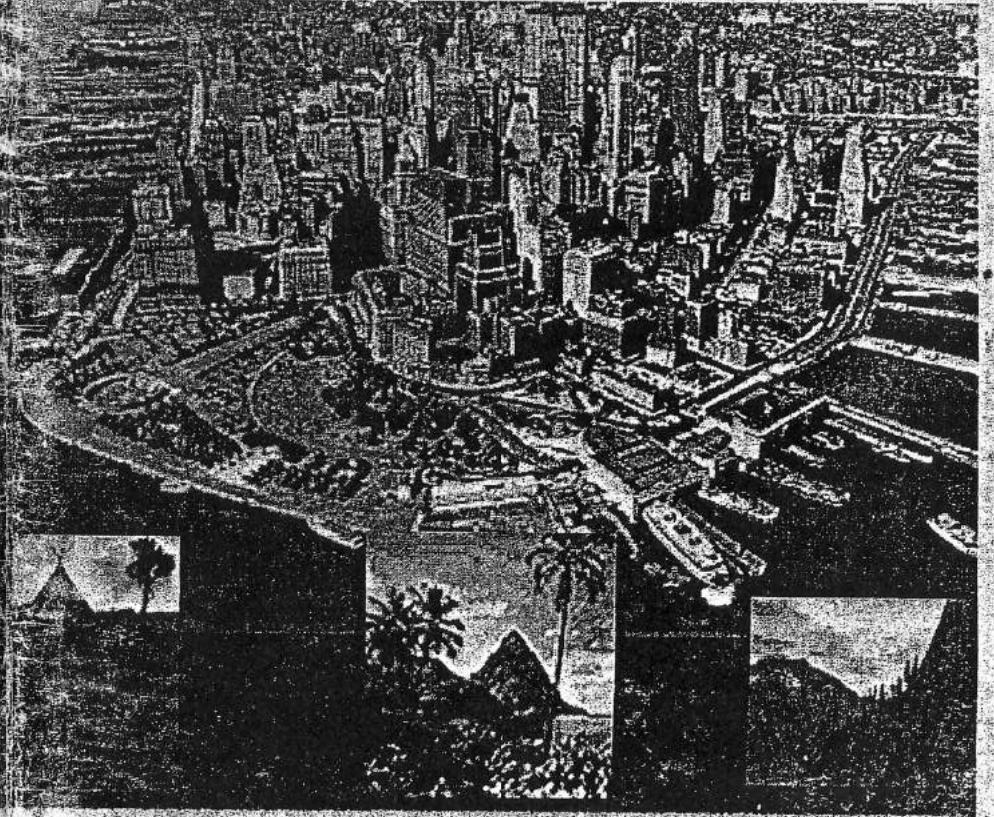


A Primer on Civilization, Domestication, and Anarchy



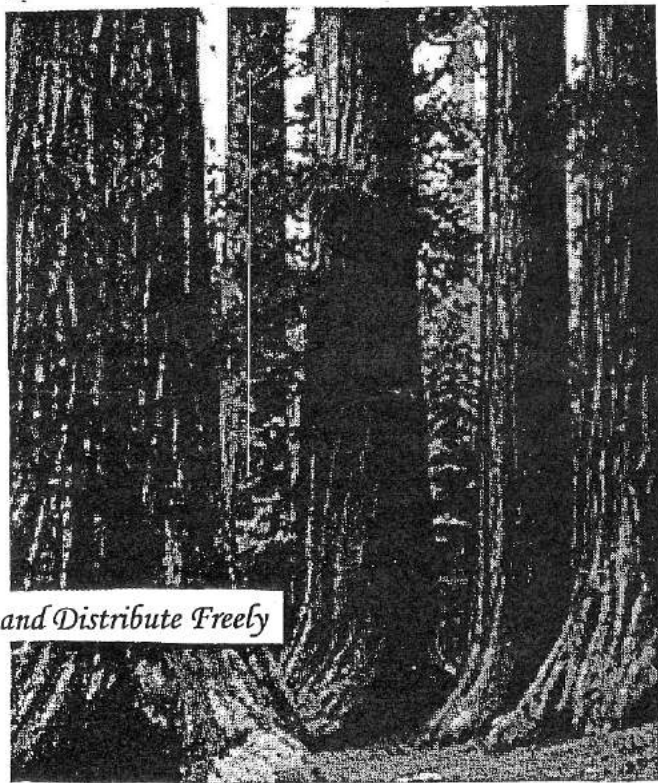
**WE HAVE A WORLD OF PLEASURE TO WIN AND NOTHING  
TO LOSE BUT BOREDOM.**

-RAOUL VANEKHEIM





Welcome to *Uncivilized*. This zine is a collaborative exploration by people who are fed up with watching this monster called civilization destroy everything beautiful in this world. We hope after reading it, and thinking about it you can come to your own conclusions. Take your time, read it slow, and think about how it applies to your own life. We aren't trying to sell anything or convince you of anything, we're just presenting information. The rest is up to you.



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“Try to imagine a way of life where land, shelter, and food are free, and where there are no leaders, bosses, politics, organized crime, taxes or laws. Add to this the benefits of being part of a society where everything is shared, where there is no rich people and no poor people, and where happiness does not mean the accumulation of material possessions.”

—Kevin Duffy speaking of present day gatherer-hunters of the Mbuti Pygmies of central Africa.



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## Where the Wild Things Are

Long thought to have been killed off:  
a thing,  
a place,  
the dirty thought,  
the impure life,  
the long time enemy of Order remains captive,  
still breathing air under calloused skin.

(read: civilized, overworked, desensitized, lifeless)

It was fought off with;  
plows in the Fertile Crescent,  
with power in Rome,  
with monotheism to the "savages",  
with plows across the world,  
with swords in Eurasia,  
with guns in the New World.

The long, drawn out battle is carried on with;  
work in our daily lives,  
schooling (read: training) in our childhoods,  
television in our leisure time,  
money on our minds,  
legacy, Futures: mass produced aspirations.

We have the TechNOlogiKILL, scientific, Reasoned clump  
of circuitry to be our guiding light, our master, OUR GOD.  
we are slaves to the new (read: 10,000 years)  
world order (same as the old).

(civilized, domesticated, obedient, servant: slave)

Our cages are made of concrete, steel, plexi-glass:  
the functioning, human made hell:  
complete with natural scenery.  
(read: shadows, ghosts: skeletons in the closet)

All the Paxil, Prozac, happy pills, happy sitcoms;  
happy ads, faces, cars, clothes, abs can't conceal  
our lust, our urges, OUR BEING.

The school shootings, the mass murders, the serial  
killers, the bioengineers, the secret societies, the honor  
rolls, the degrees, the prisons, the shattered lives:  
all of this, EVERY BIT OF IT  
is filling the void, OUR void.

The rejection of wildness  
(read: neither place nor thing, but being)  
is the rejection of self, the creation of a void.

The sickening despair (read: result)  
will only deepen,  
unless we become whole again.



## Some things to consider...

Over 200 unique species go extinct every single day. This means that every night we go to sleep in a civilized world, 200 beautiful, unique, amazing forms of life are gone forever. With so much beauty at stake, how can we live with ourselves if we don't confront this madness?

DDT, one of the world's most deadly pesticides/poisons is present in every single living thing and body of water on earth, including the most remote parts of Antarctica.

200,000 (1.5 every second) acres of rainforest is eradicated *every day*

An average of 27 tons of waste is produced during the manufacture of one car.

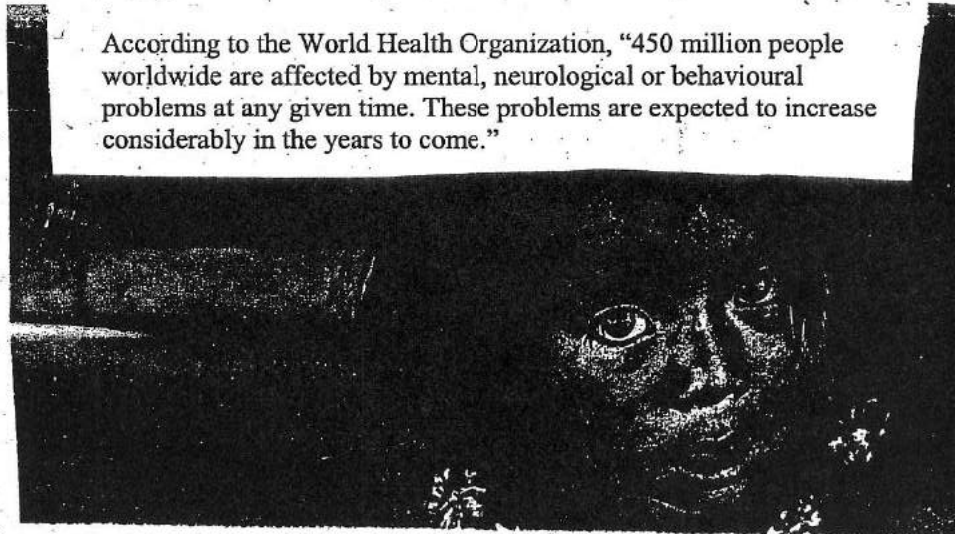
28 million people in the united states are on anti-depressant medication

25,000 people die from starvation *every day*

In the year 2000, malignant tumors were responsible for 12 percent of the nearly 56 million deaths worldwide from all causes. In many countries, more than a quarter of deaths are attributable to cancer.

Suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in America.

According to the World Health Organization, "450 million people worldwide are affected by mental, neurological or behavioural problems at any given time. These problems are expected to increase considerably in the years to come."



## *Some personal reflections on civilization...*

Sometimes I have so much to say that I find it hard to say anything at all. When dealing with a topic like civilization, this is an important thing to recognize, because there are so many things to discuss that it becomes overwhelming. I've been doing a lot of personal exploration lately, trying to make an attempt to analyze all of the imbued conventions and thought patterns that the civilized mindset forces on us. This is just a short exploration on what civilization means to me, and what it means to resist it (many of the things mentioned here are discussed more in-depth in the rest of the zine).

The civilized mindset is something that is imbued in us from the minute we are born. None of us can escape it, because it lives inside all of us. The best we can do is to challenge it at every juncture possible and explore what it means to have an alternative to it.

What does it mean for the psychological well-being of the humans caught in a downward spiral of their own making? What is the cost of living in an increasingly barren high-tech monoculture? The results are clear to see for anyone who takes the time to sit down and think about it – neurological disorders, millions of people sedated on anti-depressants just to get through the day, eating disorders, senseless violence, and increasing suicide rates. Anyone who can still manage to convince themselves of a coincidence between the aforementioned diseases and our de-personalized, fast-paced world order is either naïve or just avoiding the problem. People are unraveling more and more everyday as their life force is eaten away by this monster.

Commodification is the driving force of our culture. Everything we experience is a result of the commodification and cheapening of life into something that can be sold in the marketplace. We literally live in a world designed entirely by

The point of this zine is to make you think. We aren't offering any easy solutions because there aren't any. All we can hope for is that after reading this, you start to look at "life" in civilization more critically – because the most convincing argument against civilization isn't anything we can put on paper, it's in the millions of sad, depressed faces of everyone around you, in that headache you can't seem to get rid of, in the unmarked graves of billions of beautiful life forms, and that feeling you have deep inside you that something isn't right, or isn't all it could be. See you on the other side.

### Reading:

[My Name Is Chellis and I'm In Recovery From Western Civilization by Chellis Glendinning](#)  
A great introduction to the pathology of civilization and a very down-to-earth analysis of how domestication affects our lives.

[Pacifism as Pathology by Ward Churchill](#)  
A short, concise essay on the absurdity and futility of pacifism and the ideology of nonviolence.

[Species Traitor by Coalition Against Civilization](#)  
This is an annual zine by the folks at the Coalition Against Civilization. Issue #3 focuses on symbolic thought, and at over 100 pages makes for very interesting reading. Number 4 should be out soon.

[Days of War, Nights of Love by CrimethInc.](#)  
This is a compilation of a lot of CrimethInc.'s better work, and is very easy to understand. Explores topics like work, technology, love, and anarchy.

[A Language Older Than Words and The Culture of Make Believe by Derrick Jensen](#)  
These amazing books are personal explorations of a variety of subjects including racism, sexism, ecocide, and the many other harmful manifestations of our culture, while bringing everything back to the inevitable – that civilization needs to be abandoned if we want to live healthy lives again.

[A Green History of the World by Clive Ponting](#)  
A very interesting study of powerful civilizations and how they eventually fell.

[Ishmael by Daniel Quinn](#)  
This book is a dialog between a man and a gorilla, who explore modern society and how we got to where we are today.

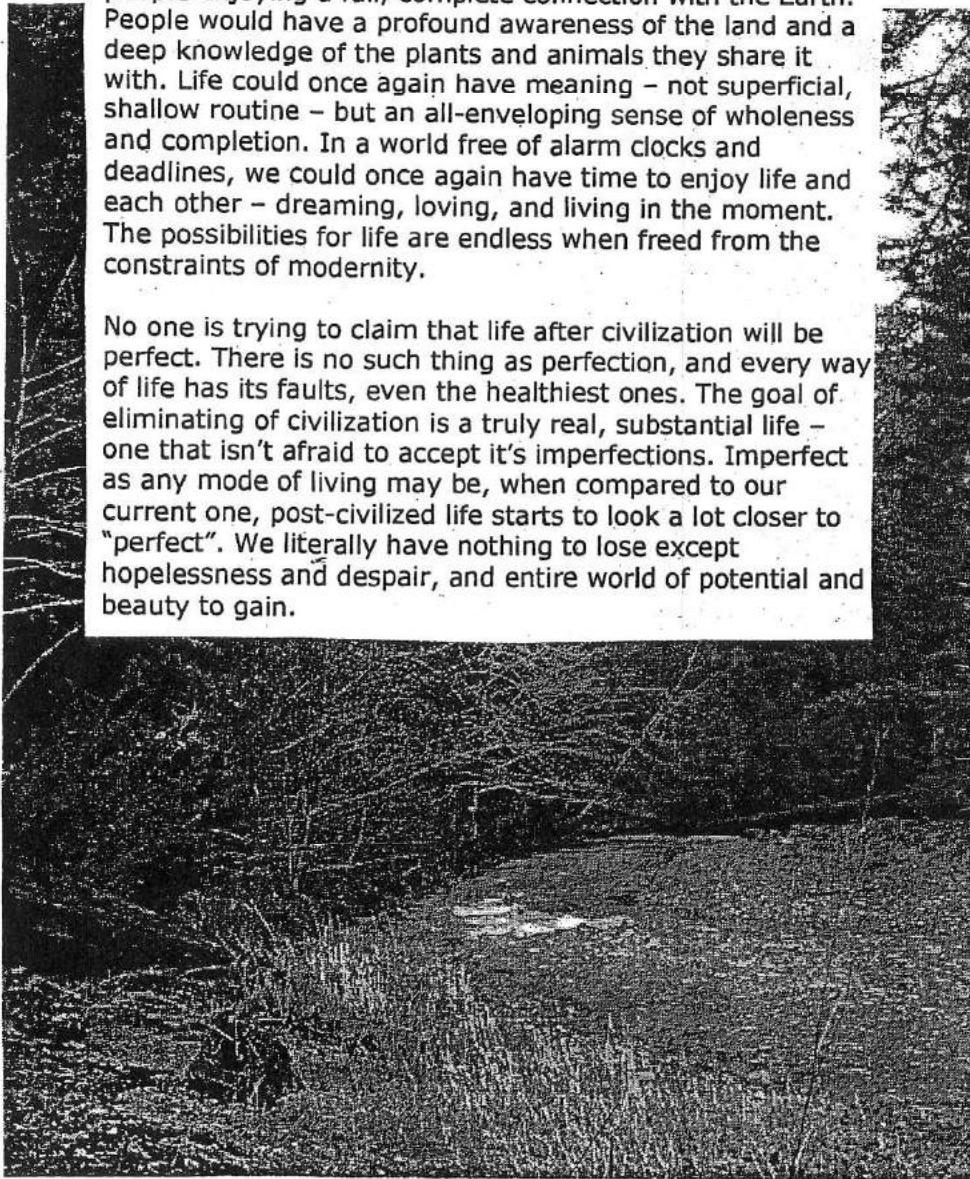
[Future Primitive, Elements of Refusal, and Running on Emptiness by John Zerzan](#)  
John Zerzan's work is essential reading for anyone who is interested in the ideas expressed in this zine. Some may find him academic and boring, but his work is well worth the effort.



What would life look like without civilization? No one can really say for sure, because none of us have ever experienced it for ourselves. John Zerzan has written "life before civilization was in fact largely one of leisure, intimacy with nature, sensual wisdom, sexual equality, and health".

I imagine life after civilization as being one of friendship, sharing, and community. I imagine autonomous tribes of people enjoying a full, complete connection with the Earth. People would have a profound awareness of the land and a deep knowledge of the plants and animals they share it with. Life could once again have meaning – not superficial, shallow routine – but an all-enveloping sense of wholeness and completion. In a world free of alarm clocks and deadlines, we could once again have time to enjoy life and each other – dreaming, loving, and living in the moment. The possibilities for life are endless when freed from the constraints of modernity.

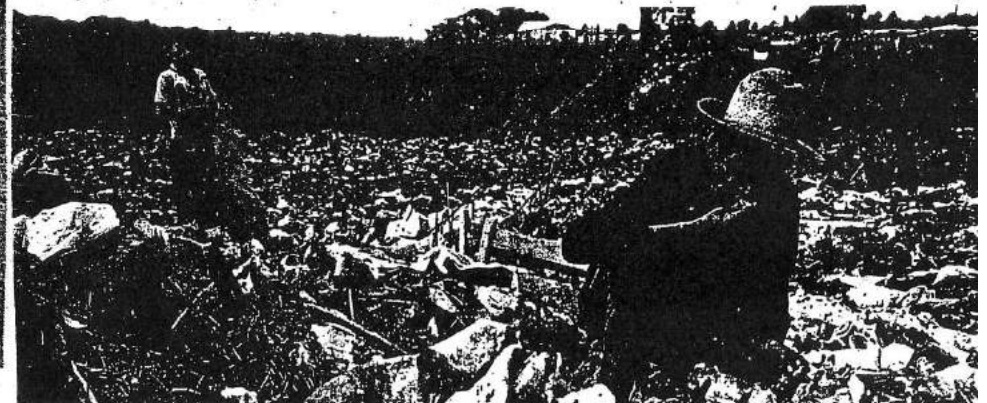
No one is trying to claim that life after civilization will be perfect. There is no such thing as perfection, and every way of life has its faults, even the healthiest ones. The goal of eliminating of civilization is a truly real, substantial life – one that isn't afraid to accept it's imperfections. Imperfect as any mode of living may be, when compared to our current one, post-civilized life starts to look a lot closer to "perfect". We literally have nothing to lose except hopelessness and despair, and entire world of potential and beauty to gain.



man (or, more appropriately, *men*) and for man (*men*). Our existence and relationship to each other and the natural world has become so falsified that its no wonder people are literally going insane.

So, what does it mean to resist, and more importantly, create an alternative to this death-race? In terms of personally confronting it, I think that it's important for anyone concerned about it to do a lot of inner reflection and to realize just how much of a hold it has on us. All of our actions and a good portion of our thoughts are controlled by it, and the first thing to do is to reflect on that and try to identify it wherever we can. Every time someone finds themselves worrying about work or how much money they make, every time someone looks at themselves in a mirror and feels inadequate and allows outside standards to shape their own self-image, and every time someone sedates themselves to oblivion to escape it, it perpetuates itself. All of these thoughts are products of the hijacking of our minds and the usurping of our desires by civilization. Creating an alternative to this madness would mean to reject everything it has taught us, and explore for ourselves what life is really about.

The destruction of civilization would mean the destruction of personal barriers that we put in place to protect ourselves from feeling emotion, which opens many possibilities for being more open with each other, as well as our surroundings. To be against civilization is to be for freedom, love, happiness, intimacy with nature, equality, openness, and a world where every one is honored and respected.



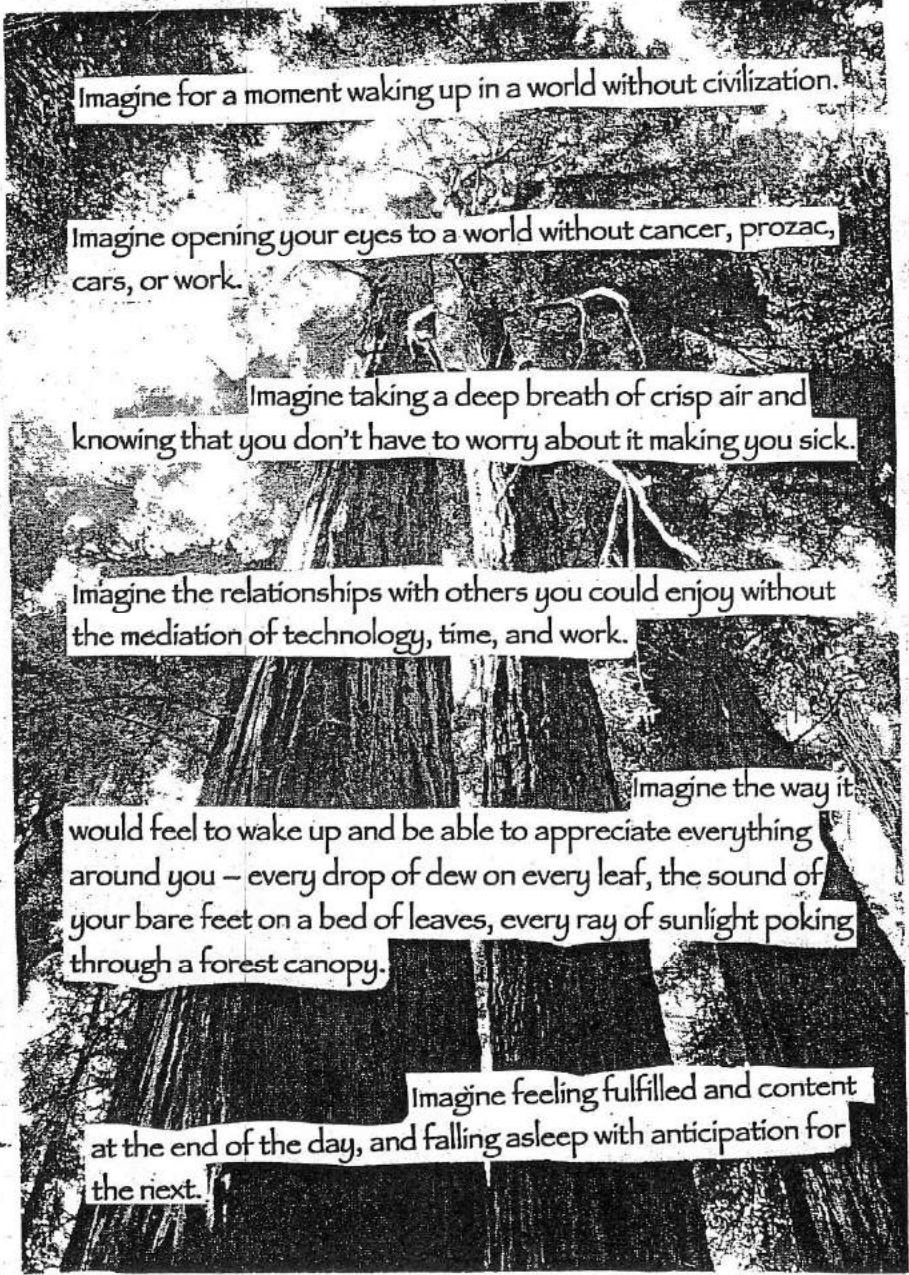
# What is the Totality?

By Kevin Tucker

It is the high residues of hazardous and potentially lethal chemicals inside your fat cells. It is you sitting inside and turning on the television or computer on a beautiful day. It is you shopping when you are depressed. It is the feeling you get that something is missing. It is your worries that a fire may destroy all of your possessions and your plans to try and take them with you. It is the thought that tells you to go on a diet. It is the excess fat on your body. It is the headache that won't go away. It is the bleeding in your intestines from years of pain alleviating drug use. It is the birth defects of your children. It is your killer when you die from a car accident. It is your savior when it attempts to fill your void for you. It is your carpal tunnel syndrome. It is your tumor. It is your expensive coffin and burial clothing. It is the drugs you take when you need an escape. It is the bulldozer that destroyed the woods you might have known so well. It is the towering skyscraper that makes you feel forever tiny and powerless. It is your boss. It is minimum wage, it is maximum wage.

It is your prison, sometimes with bars, sometimes without. It is all your fears. It is what is keeping you up at night. It is the lock on your door. It is the bullet in your gun. It is your noose and your tie. It is that thing that you don't want to do, but you feel that you have to. It is the turned cheek. It is the cold shoulder. It is the ad that tells you the internet will provide affection for you. It is the new appliance that you never knew existed, but you can't live without. It is poverty. It is inequality. It is the sink or swim economy. It is the thing that has categorized you. It has stopped you from doing the things you want. It is what makes you jealous. It is your hate. It is your love. It is your purgatives that you feel might be somewhat strange. It is your clenched fist. It is your mace spray.

It is the police. It is the nightstick. It is the protester and the media which tells you not to listen to them. It is the corporation which creates a new truth for you daily, one which provides you with the knowledge to buy what they make with confidence. It is the gold star you earned in kindergarten. It is the A you got in high school. It is your college degree. It is your paycheck. It is your therapist. It is your bill from the medicine you bought to 'fix your brain'. It is the ache in your back. It is your swollen knees. It is your worsening eyesight from the incandescent glow of our institutions. It is your hearing loss. It is the 'white noise' that drives you crazy. It is your adrenaline. It is the tears that pour down your face after a sad movie. It is your longing for a dramatic romance with a happy ending. It is your lust for sex. It is the



Imagine for a moment waking up in a world without civilization.

Imagine opening your eyes to a world without cancer, prozac, cars, or work.

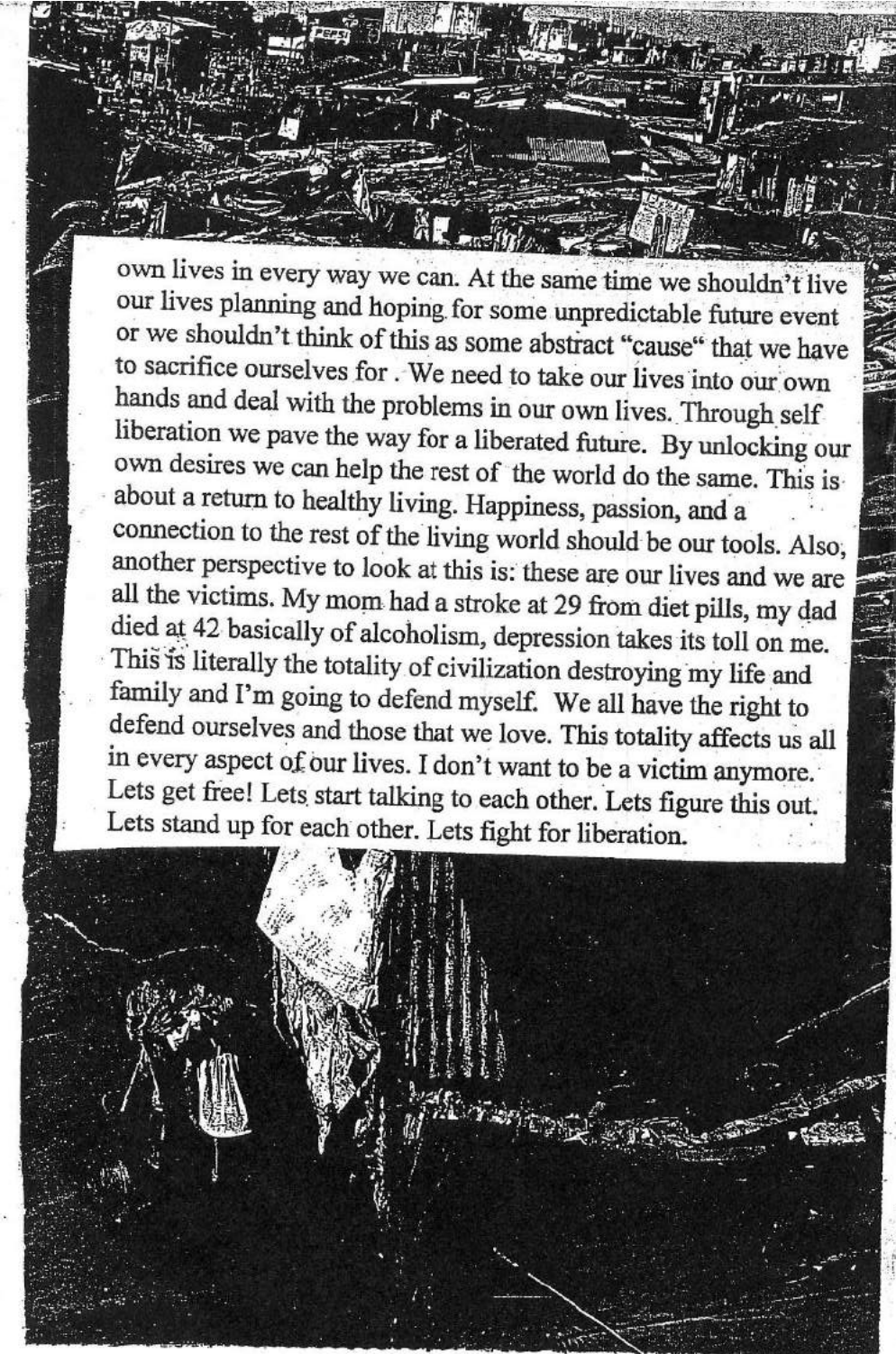
Imagine taking a deep breath of crisp air and knowing that you don't have to worry about it making you sick.

Imagine the relationships with others you could enjoy without the mediation of technology, time, and work.

Imagine the way it would feel to wake up and be able to appreciate everything around you – every drop of dew on every leaf, the sound of your bare feet on a bed of leaves, every ray of sunlight poking through a forest canopy.

Imagine feeling fulfilled and content at the end of the day, and falling asleep with anticipation for the next.





own lives in every way we can. At the same time we shouldn't live our lives planning and hoping for some unpredictable future event or we shouldn't think of this as some abstract "cause" that we have to sacrifice ourselves for. We need to take our lives into our own hands and deal with the problems in our own lives. Through self liberation we pave the way for a liberated future. By unlocking our own desires we can help the rest of the world do the same. This is about a return to healthy living. Happiness, passion, and a connection to the rest of the living world should be our tools. Also, another perspective to look at this is: these are our lives and we are all the victims. My mom had a stroke at 29 from diet pills, my dad died at 42 basically of alcoholism, depression takes its toll on me. This is literally the totality of civilization destroying my life and family and I'm going to defend myself. We all have the right to defend ourselves and those that we love. This totality affects us all in every aspect of our lives. I don't want to be a victim anymore. Lets get free! Lets start talking to each other. Lets figure this out. Lets stand up for each other. Lets fight for liberation.

objectified woman, and the powerless man. It is the rapist. It is the murderer. It is the thief. It is the profiteer. It is the worker. It is the dead union organizer.

It is the soldier that is willing to kill and die for cheaper oil. It is the victims of a government enflamed over unwillingness to follow their way of life. It is the activist hung for saying they don't want to be killed for profits. It is the rubber bullet. It is pepper spray. It is the extinct species. It is the dying world. It is polluted air. It is tainted water. It is the accident at the nuclear power plant. It is the oil spill. It is the break in the pipeline. It is the brakes that failed. It is the dwindling biodiversity. It is the patented seed. It is the farmer killing her/himself with the pesticides that were going to make life better. It is the seat belt that mangled you, but didn't kill you entirely. It is the blood dripping from the cut you got at work, but can't afford to let it heal. It is the concrete beneath your feet. It is the stairs you fall down. It is the train that went off the tracks. It is the plane that blew up. It is the boat that sank. It is the drink you take to just forget it all. It is your misery. It is your world.

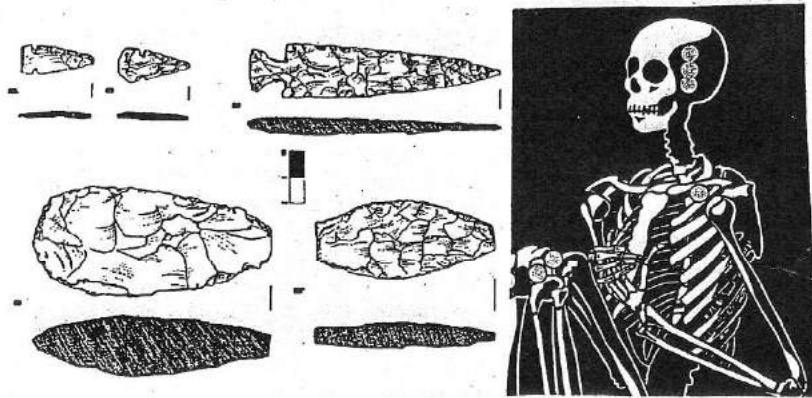
It is everything to you. It is civilized existence and the mindset which maintains it.

It is what makes devastation seem not so shocking. It takes you through the day. It dulls you out at night. It gives you nightmares, it gives you dreams. It is your feeling of not having of not having accomplished enough. It is your desire to have a child to complete yourself. It is the physical and mental barriers of civilized life. It is civilization and it has become you. It is a mindset. It is power. It is physically reinforced to block off the reality of its powerlessness by mediating human existence from the natural world. It is the feeling of superiority, which supplies the reason to destroy all else. It is unnatural. It will fall, but will you fall with it? It is personal and it is individual. It is defeatable and its defeat is needed for our liberation, as well as for that of all else that human kind has set out to conquer and overpower. Freedom is only a thought away. Liberate the mind and the body will follow.



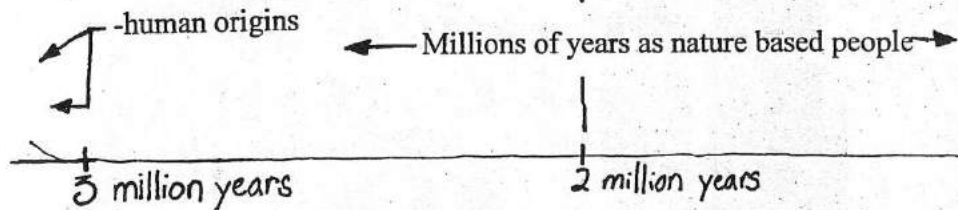
## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMAN LIFE

Humans have lived leisurely, healthy, and sustainable lives as nomadic gatherers (also called gatherer/hunters) for three million years. The number of years humans have been "human" is debatable but three million is a fair estimate. Humans have lived in tribes as a part of the natural cycles of the world. Civilization started with the onset of agriculture and domestication a mere 10,000 years ago. That's less than 1% of human history.



-Origins of stone tool making (3 million to 2.5 million years ago)

-Use of fire (approx. 2 million years)



Where do we go from here? Now that we are starting to see that hierarchy, domination, division of labor, organized aggression and sexism stem from domestication and agricultural lifestyle. What lessons are we learning? What of our estrangement from nature and natural living, the pathology of civilization, alienation, trauma sickness, emptiness, and the madness of culture on the brink of collapse? What can we do to save our health and sanity? It is hard to think about such questions when so much weight is balancing on a toothpick. The final goal is nothing short of total liberation. A return to healthy natural living and sustainability. A return to a human existence where meaning is not a question, it just is. A human existence where people live autonomously, wild, and free. Yes I'm talking about gatherers and foragers living in tribes as a part of the natural cycles of the world but as hard as it is to imagine we must remember that we have lived this way for millions of years and civilization will be nothing more than a pile of rubble buried beneath the forests and oceans.

So how do we get from point A to point B? How do we stand up to this force threatening our existence? Well, let's look at the fact that civilization *will* fall. It is only a matter of time. How much time, no one really knows. It could be next year it could be hundreds of years from now but it will happen sooner or later. We all know it. Even our religions, the pillars of civilization, know it. So what do we do through this transition period from now until then? Well, I am still trying to figure this part out for myself but I think our goal should be to make this transition as easy and painless as possible. I think education of the situation is really important along with trying to preserve what is left of the natural world, trying to stop further destruction and alienation, and trying to develop a healthy relationship with each other and the earth. I think each of these things will be different for each of us. The important part is that we all do whatever we can. There is no one right answer, if there is I wish I knew it, so we all have to resist civilization in our



Everyday "life" in this society is enough to drive anyone crazy (and it certainly does, just look around you). Our entire existence is artificial – everything from the concrete beneath our feet to most of the people we come in contact with are completely separated from the natural world. This disassociation from the Earth and natural processes is the main reason we're at where we are today.

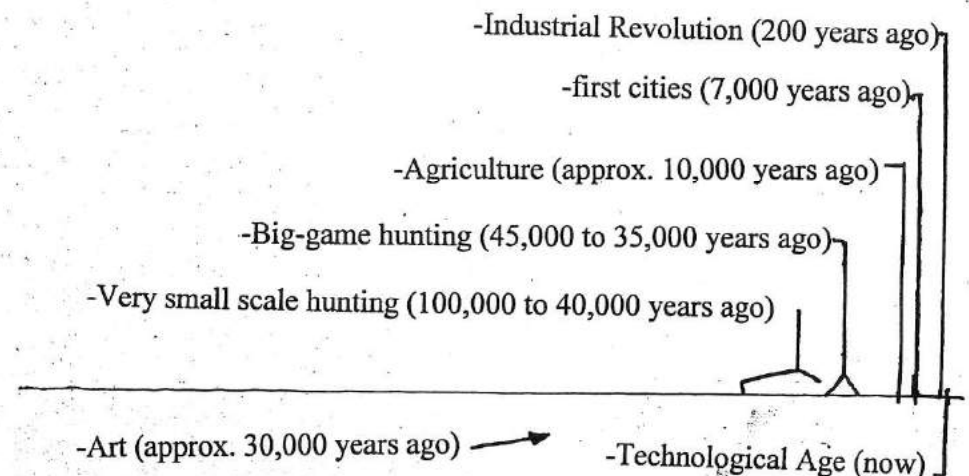
The Earth keeps (or kept) us sane – being a part of the community of life and participating in meaningful relationships with other beings keeps intact the most important part of us, and participating in modern society deprives us of it. To love and to be loved, to provide and be provided for, to care and to be cared for. When we deny our place in the world as functioning members of this beautiful community, we deny ourselves more than can be written on paper, and more than most of us will ever understand.

You can see the pain, the emptiness, the void everywhere you look. People run around city streets, twitching and mumbling to themselves, like rats confined to a cage chasing their tail. Walking down the street, the iconic figures of civilization and the subsequent misery that follows it are plain for everyone to see. The concrete beneath our calloused feet (separated to another degree by shoes) serves as a barrier between the Earth and ourselves, our senses are assaulted by advertising designed to make us hate ourselves, the air we breathe is fouled by cars and industrial pollutants – it goes on, ad nauseum. Just walking around in the city is hard, because it's impossible to look in someone's eyes and not see the desperation and frustration.

After years of living in a concrete jungle (and one of the smaller ones, at that), something inside me tells me that something isn't right. Something is missing from my life, and the lives of billions of others – lives that have been robbed of meaning and purpose by civilization. We're trapped inside a prison of our own making, a lifestyle which not only has neither meaning nor purpose, but is devouring us from the inside. Only when we start to see civilized life for what it is – a complete arrogance towards and disrespect for life on earth – will we be able to reconnect with what we have lost.

Humans have been as smart as present day humans for as long as two million years as Thomas Wynn judged manufacture of the Archulian hand axe to have required "a state of intelligence that is typical of fully modern adults." Gowlett like Wynn examines the required "operational thinking" involved in the right hammer, the right force and the right striking angle, in an ordered sequence and with flexibility needed for modifying the procedure. He contends that manipulation concentration, visualization of form in three dimensions, and planning were needed, and that these requirements "were the common property of early human beings as much as two million years ago, and this, he adds, "is hard knowledge, not speculation."

- Humans are animals.
- Humans live in tribes.
- Humans are gatherer/hunters.
- Agriculture is not sustainable.
- Civilization is a tragedy and always will be.



# *A Simple Equation*

Civilization is based on  
Agriculture.

Agriculture takes more from the  
land than it puts back.

Therefore it is not sustainable.

Simplified:

Agriculture is not Sustainable

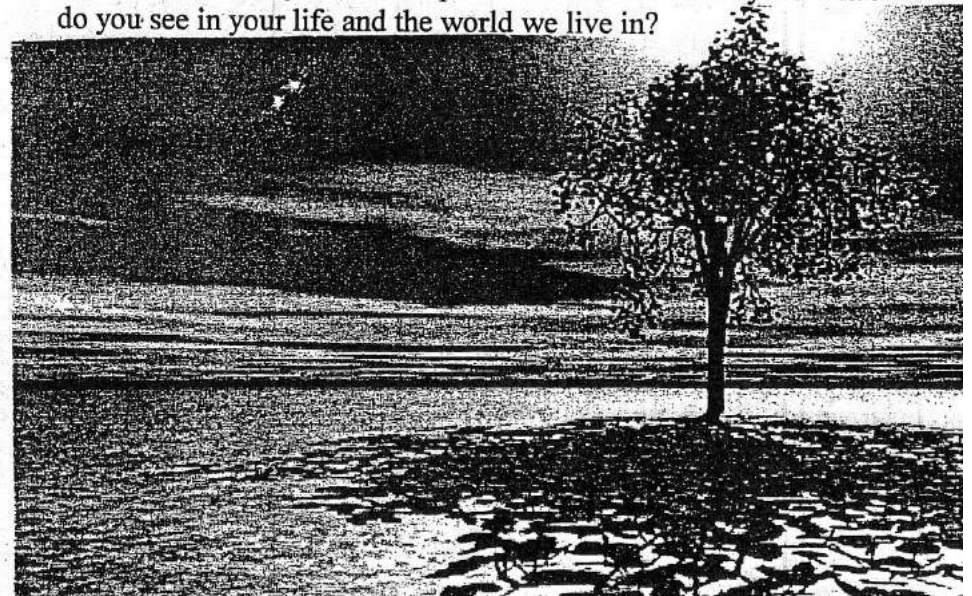
Conclusion:

Civilization is not sustainable.



little envious of their lack of knowing what it feels like to be completely emerged in the totality of a sick and dying culture. I also felt a little hope in that these wild creatures live so close to us and are still free. Despite our cultures attempts to control exploit, and domesticate everything possible, those animals, though hunted, still live in the natural world. As I watched them I watched the trees and the wind and thought of the rare fleeting moments like that one where I can forget my sense of time and order and see the beauty around me as it is, and find joy in a single moment. What if this state were all we knew? What if this was our lives? Lives not knowing about rape and guns. Just living moment for moment, whether pain or happiness, always secure in the intricate beauty of innocence and nature. I would like to think that everyone has felt something similar to this at least once. Walking down the street and noticing the way the leaves blow across the ground, or the comfort of a giant oak tree, or looking into a strangers eyes and seeing a glimpse of humanity that normally would go unnoticed. Do you ever feel like this? Can you ever just let go for a single moment?

I'm going to leave it at this. Rather than offering you more of my own direction I offering a suggestion to contemplate your own life. What of your own experiences? Look around you. What do you see in your life and the world we live in?





## Moments in the Wild

When was the last time you saw the stars? Last night, two weeks ago, two months ago? Can you even recall? Can you remember the sound of stillness? Crickets chirping in the distance, an ever-so-slight breeze blowing through the leaves, and a powerful abnormal nothing; no cars roaring, horns or sirens, trains or jets, TV's or radios blaring; just nothing. A couple weeks ago a friend and I were walking around the city cemetery that is on the foothill of the mountains overlooking the valley. It was a bright sunny day the air was crisp and cold. We walked in the relatively quiet trees and gravestones. There was about a foot of snow on the ground. As we moved deeper into the cemetery towards the mountains we noticed a few deer grazing on a small tree. As we walked closer we noticed more and more of them. There was a small herd of twelve to fifteen deer grazing and lounging in the peaceful cemetery. They watched us as we cautiously walked closer but they didn't run. We got to a point close enough to them and just watched. I thought of these beautiful creatures living wild up in the hills among the trees and shrubs, streams and grass. To them cars and asphalt are a strange occurrence. Frantic scurrying, constant noise, and that feeling of alienation; like walking along a street downtown with no where to be and feeling that there is not a single thing around you can relate to or that can relate to you. They have none of this. I looked beyond the deer and gravestones and out across the valley. A bright blue sky shined above and a blanket of smog covered the valley below. No doubt this blanket was the source of a developing cough I'd had for a week. Dirty skyscrapers stuck out of the polluted smog reaching for the blue sky and fresh air. I looked back to the deer, some starting to wonder on to other trees, and felt a

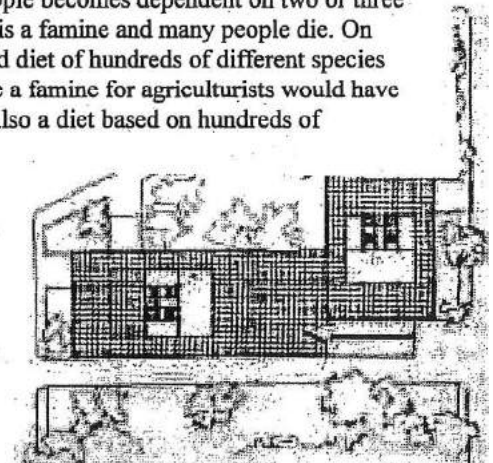
## AGRICULTURE

*"Hunter-gatherers are very generous people. Their possessions are few and they share everything they have, knowing that it can be readily replaced. But when people settle down it is different. Their possessions multiply; they need axes and saws to cut down trees for building, ploughs to break the ground, hoes to weed, sickles to harvest, baskets to carry the crop and barns to store it in. All these things are essential to grow even the simplest crops. Moreover, the food grown each year has to last until the following year so it has to be stored safely. The land, the possessions and the stored food are all essential for the livelihood of the agricultural people and they are protected and defended against any unwelcome intruder. I believe that this is how the first seeds of aggression were sown."*

—Richard Leakey  
Human Origins

With agriculture comes the division of labor. Naturally every member of a tribe is capable of surviving alone and is knowledgeable of all the aspects of tribal living but with agriculture comes specialization. The tasks of living are divided up. As societies and civilization develops the division of labor increases. Hierarchy and separate classes are created with the special needs of agricultural lifestyle. Armies are needed to protect the land and food, leaders to run the armies, officials to distribute and store the food and decide the functions of society, and religious leaders to pacify the lower classes. This new ruling class is not a part of actual food production so a lower class of peasants and slaves is needed to work the fields to feed the armies, rulers, priests, and officials. With this new excess of food and the sedentary lifestyle comes an explosion of population. Forests are cleared for crops and grazing to feed the expanding population. Nature based people are killed as new land is cleared for crops.

The diets of agricultural people becomes dependent on two or three staple crops. If these crops fail there is a famine and many people die. On the other hand gatherers have a varied diet of hundreds of different species of plants. A drought that would cause a famine for agriculturists would have only a minimal effect on gatherers. Also a diet based on hundreds of



different plants is far more nutritious than a diet based on a few crops.

With agriculture comes the need to dominate and objectify. Crops are planted in rows with fences. Food becomes a number, so many pounds of wheat or rice. The production of food has replaced food as sustenance. Land is divided up into plots for different uses. Everything is thought of for its use and value. Humans are turned into laborers, trees to wood, other living animals to meat and labor, land to crops, women to sexual objects and beasts of burden. With this trend for domination and objectification, the growing populous and agricultures susceptibility to famine brings scarcity. Among all this, competition develops along with the concepts of private property. "Everyman for himself." (women are now viewed as property) becomes the reaction to scarcity. The totality of it all is overwhelming. Every aspect of agricultural life is unhealthy. Wars are waged for "resources." Hierarchy develops more and more... and its all downhill from there.



**Agriculture takes more organic matter out of the soil than it puts back, and soil erosion is basic to the monoculture of annuals.** Regarding the latter, some are promoted with devastating results to the land; along with cotton and soybeans, corn, which in its present domesticated state is totally dependent on agriculture for its existence, is especially bad. J. Russel Smith called it "the killer of continents...and one of the worst enemies of the human future." The erosion cost of one bushel of Iowa corn is two bushels of topsoil, highlighting the more general large-scale monocultures, with massive use of chemicals and no application of manure of humus, obviously raises soil deterioration and soil loss to much higher levels.

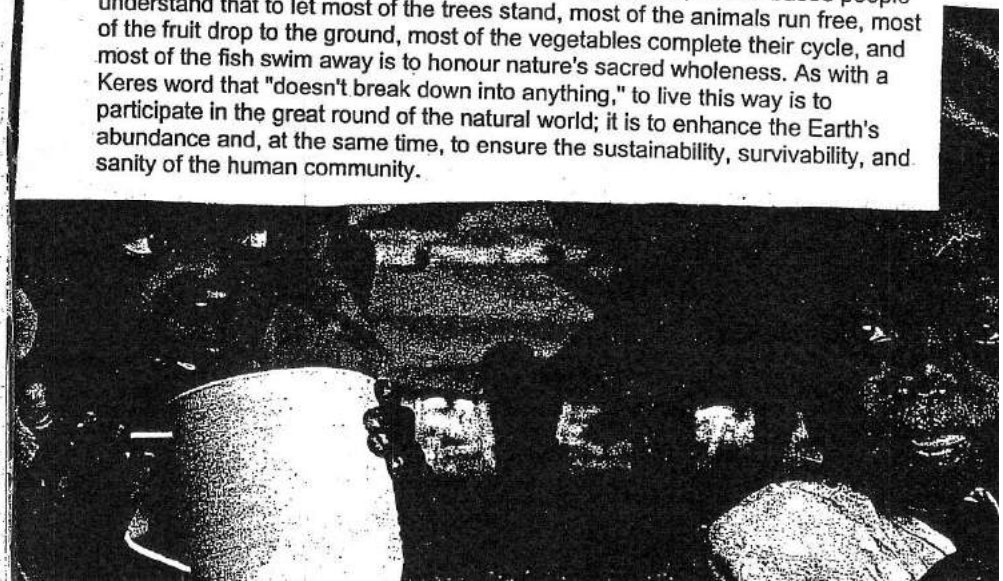
The dominant agricultural mode has it that soil needs massive infusions of chemicals, supervised by technicians whose overriding goal is to maximize production. Artificial fertilizers and all the rest from this outlook eliminate the need for the complex life of the soil and indeed convert in into a mere instrument of production. The promise of technology is total control, a completely contrived environment that simply supersedes the natural balance of the biosphere.

But more and more energy is expended to purchase great monoculture yields that are beginning to decline, never mink the toxic

During the 1980s when I was working to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, I had a disturbing conversation with a corporate CEO. While we were dining one summer evening in a Hakka restaurant in San Francisco's Chinatown, he told me that from a business standpoint, nuclear war would not occur until multinational corporations had succeeded in commercializing China. After that accomplishment, he said, there would be no more room on Earth to expand the market economy (which must always, of course, be in a state of expansion), and so there would be no more viable reason for humans beings to stay alive. His opinion reflects the going ethos of both an expansionist technological system and an addicted psyche: use up what resources are here now; when you run out, do whatever you must to get more—with no regard for the consequences.

By contrast, nature-based people neither force the Earth to produce at maximum levels nor impose wholesale realignments of nature's rhythms and physical layout. A commitment to ecological sustainability was the ground upon which our humanity came into existence, and the sustainable life is inseparably intertwined with full participation in social life, democratic decision-making, self-esteem for both women and men, a relaxed approach to daily life, good food, and a stable population. The key seems to be that we humans can successfully survive on this planet only so long as our presence contributes to and meshes with the life of the Earth. According to Marshall Sahlins, within nature-based cultures this objective is accomplished by a gestalt of factors that are its hallmarks: "labour power is underused, technological means are not fully engaged, natural resources are left untapped . . . production is low relative to existing possibilities. The work day is short. The number of days off exceeds the number of work days. Dancing, fishing, games, sleep, and ritual seem to occupy the greater portion of one's time."(35)

Plus, nature-based people move on when existing sources reach their limit, and this limit is never the outer maximum limit of the terrain as we have come to define it. Rather than clear-cut the entire forest, kill every deer, pocket every chestnut, pull up every wild yam, and catch every salmon, nature-based people understand that to let most of the trees stand, most of the animals run free, most of the fruit drop to the ground, most of the vegetables complete their cycle, and most of the fish swim away is to honour nature's sacred wholeness. As with a Keres word that "doesn't break down into anything," to live this way is to participate in the great round of the natural world; it is to enhance the Earth's abundance and, at the same time, to ensure the sustainability, survivability, and sanity of the human community.





nature-based people who have lived unhampered by the encroachment of civilization tend to hold the attitude that since food is available in abundance, storing it is unnecessary; nature itself stores food for people, who merely need to know how to find it. Pau d'arco. Salmonberry. Wild turkey. Mugwort. Yucca flower. Jamaica ginger. Perhaps the famed statement by an African Dobe Bushman says it all: "Why should we plant when there are so many mongongo nuts in the world?"(21)

Then there is the issue of quality. Anthropologist Peter Farm writes that truly nature-based peoples are "among the best fed people on Earth and also among the healthiest:"(22) It goes without saying that those who live in the wilds eat organic food, uncontaminated by chemical preservatives, pesticides, and other additives. Descriptions of the diets of nature-based peoples throughout the world reveal that they uniformly match the standards of the National Research Council of America for consumption of vitamins, minerals, and protein,(23) while erosion of the quality of the nature-based diet consistently occurs when outsiders invade, bring in technological agriculture, cattle, or mining, and set up trade networks and outposts of civilization.

Also, because of their healthy diets, relaxed life-styles, and clean environs, nature-based people do not fall prey to such modern diseases as cancer, coronary heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes. High cholesterol is unknown. Studies of isolated peoples in South America reveal that infectious diseases like influenza, mumps, polio, and smallpox occur but cannot be transmitted in epidemic proportion by small, self-contained groups. Blood pressure is commonly low; and such intestinal disorders as appendicitis, diverticulosis, and bowel cancers are rare--until such groups are introduced to civilized diets.(24) According to the nineteenth-century German physician Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathic medicine, the basic "miasms" or energetic patterns of weakness that underlie and prepare the way for modern diseases did not even exist in human history until the transition out of nature-based culture.(25)

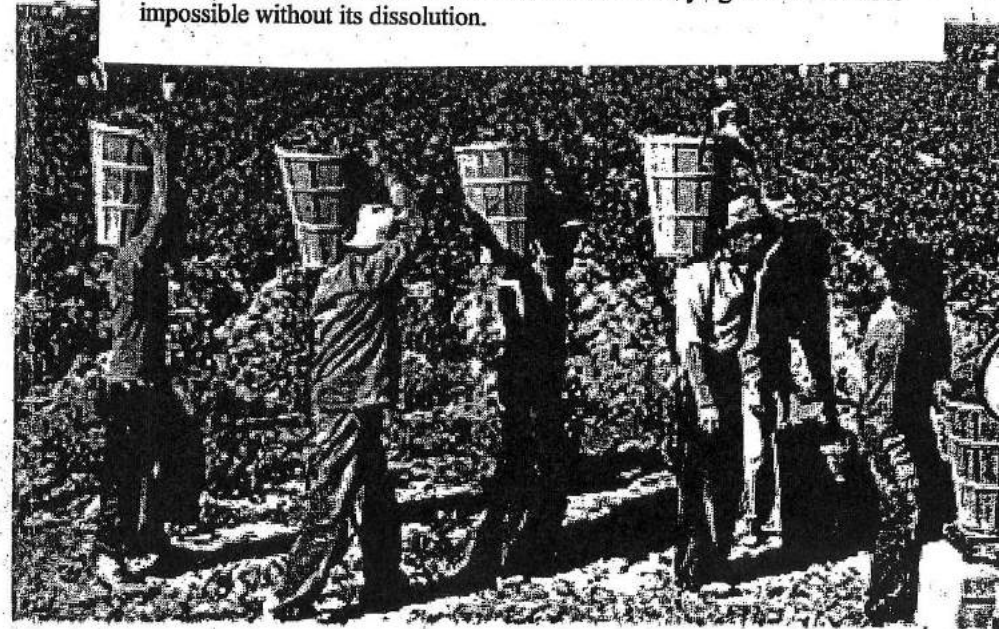
## Most of the Trees

A last social quality typical of nature-based life is ecological sustainability. This is a quality we want desperately to attain and yet, for all our Earth Days, eco-conferences, recycling programs, and environmental regulations, it remains elusive. As we know all too well, the situation is dire. The kinds of technologies that are needed to maintain our ever-expanding mass civilization, from nuclear and chemical to mining and electromagnetic, virtually encase the planet. Addiction to consumerism, military buildup, and industrial expansion is so rampant as to be considered normal by many people and certainly by those who identify with these developments. Yet, at the same time, scientists studying global disasters such as climate change, ozone depletion, and toxic contamination estimate that we have until the year 2000, or maybe 2010, to turn around the unecological practices that are causing global destruction.

contamination of the soil, ground water and food. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that cropland erosion is occurring in this country at a rate of two billion tons of soil a year. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that over on third of topsoil is already gone forever. The ecological imbalance caused by monocropping and synthetic fertilizers causes enormous increases in pests and crop diseases; since World War II, crop loss due to insects has actually doubled. Technology responds, of course, with spiraling applications of more synthetic fertilizers, and "weed" and "pest" killers, accelerating the crime against nature.

Desertification, or loss of soil due to agriculture, has been steadily increasing. Each year, a total area equivalent to more than two Belgium's is being converted to desert worldwide. The fate of the world's tropical rainforests is a factor in the acceleration of this desiccation: half of them have been erased in the past thirty years. In Botswana, the last wilderness region of Africa has disappeared like much of the Amazon jungle and almost half of the rainforests of Central America, primarily to raise cattle for the hamburger markets in the U.S. and Europe. The few areas safe from deforestation are where agriculture doesn't want to go. The destruction of the land is proceeding in the U.S. over a greater land area than was encompassed by the original thirteen colonies, just as it was at the heart of the severe African famine of the mid' 1980s, and the extinction of one species of wild animal and plant after another.

Physiologist Jared Diamond termed the initiation of agriculture "a catastrophe from which we have never recovered." Agriculture has been and remains a "catastrophe" at all levels, the one which underpins the entire material and spiritual culture of alienation now destroying us. Liberation is impossible without its dissolution.





# *Domestication*

*Ten Thousand years of*

*Trauma,*

*Sickness, and*

*Dis-ease.*

## So Many Mongongo Nuts

Another benefit of the nature-based way of life is good nutrition. Neurophysiological studies tell us that the chemical imbalances resulting from poor nutritional intake often lay the foundation for, or exacerbate, the psychological imbalances that manifest themselves as substance and behavioral addictions, while over-consumption of foods like sugar and caffeine only adds to this downward spiral. Yet in technological society, we tend to believe that we are magically blessed with endless pyramids of Princess grapefruit, comucopias of fried chicken, and instant-coffee-under-glass--while Earth-based people exist in a constant state of malnutrition, if not starvation, and a tooth-and-claw struggle for food.

The truth of the matter is that we westerners have lost our ancestral knowledge of how to survive on the Earth. A subterranean fear of not having enough food lies at the base of our civilized psyches, expressed obliquely in personal and cultural messages whose deeper meanings we would rather overlook. Clean your plate! Think of the starving children in China! Cut down the cholesterol! Avoid Alar! Cook from the four food groups! Fast food! I scream for ice cream! In the 1950s, the grand prize of a national contest was three minutes to careen through a supermarket with an empty shopping cart and grab as much food as possible, and the image on our television screens of housewives frantically stuffing turkeys into their wire carts made us all feel exhilarated--and nervous. Anxiety about food is also expressed in epidemic eating disorders like anorexia, bulimia, overeating, and over dieting.

Since Columbus arrived in North America, a full 75 percent of the wildwood ecosystem has been wiped out. Originally, 95 percent of western and central Europe was covered with lush forest land, from the Black Forest to the Italian Alps; that amount is now 20 percent. Ten thousand years ago, China was 70 percent forest; today it is 5 percent.(18) The age-old sense that nature provides has rightfully been lost, and we are rightfully scared to death about our next meal. As Marshall Sahlins reports in his book *Stone Age Economics*, "One-third to one-half of humanity are said to go hungry every night. Some twenty million [are] in the U.S. alone. . . . This is the era of unprecedented hunger. Now, in the time of greatest technical power, is starvation an institution."(19) Indeed, in the wake of the technology-fueled Green Revolution of the 1970s, we have witnessed increasing famine, starvation, the dependence of hundreds of thousands of people on airlifts and feeding camps, a decline in the nutritional quality of all food, and an overall loss of momentum in world food production.

By contrast, true nature-based people rely on a diversity of food sources, and simultaneous failure of all resources is highly unlikely. Anxiety about food is rare, and when it appears, it is usually seasonal. In his book *Health and the Rise of Civilization*, Mark Nathan Cohen reports that food supplies among nature-based people are usually abundant and reliable, while starvation may occur but is rare.(20) Surely there have been times of hardship and uncertainty, but



## Indolent Savages

(From My Name Is Chellis... See recommended reading)

A fourth social practice common in nature-based cultures concerns leisure time. Put another way, there exists in nature-based community a decided absence of workaholicism. It seems no coincidence that our modern bodies rebel against the harried work schedules we keep with heart attacks, back problems, cancers, and influenzas that appear so often they are considered "normal." According to a poll taken by Louis Harris and Associates, the average work week in the United States in the 1980s was forty-seven hours, up from forty hours a decade earlier. The U.S. Department of Labour reports that nearly 6 million working men and 1 million working women punch in more than sixty hours a week.(14) (Neither of these statistics includes the extra hours many women, and some men, put in to run their homes and raise their children.)

Journalist Kent MacDougall cuts to the heart of this predicament in a Los Angeles Times series entitled "The Harried Society." "Back in 1609 when the Algonquin Indians discovered Henry Hudson sailing up their river," he writes:

They were living off the fat of the land. They lived so well yet worked so little that the industrious Dutch considered them indolent savages and soon replaced their good life with feudalism. Today, along the Hudson River in New York, supposedly free citizens of the wealthiest society in the history of the world work longer and harder than any Algonquin Indian ever did, race around like rats in a maze, dodging cars, trucks, buses, bicycles, and each other, and dance to a frantic tempo destined to lead many to early deaths from stress and strain.(15)

According to a study conducted by researchers Frederick McCarthy and Margaret McArthur, the average workday for men in aboriginal communities in Western Arnhem Land, Australia, including all time spent on economic activities such as hunting and tool repair, adds up to three hours and forty-five minutes; for women, for their plant collecting and food preparation, the average workday is three hours and fifty minutes.(16) Anthropologist Richard Lee reports that in Africa, the average Dobe Bushman's workweek is fifteen hours, or two hours and nine minutes a day--with only 65 percent of the population working at all. "A woman gathers in one day enough food to feed her family for three days," explains Lee:

and spends the rest of her time resting in camp, doing embroidery, visiting other camps, or entertaining visitors from other camps. During each day at home, kitchen routines, such as cooking, nut cracking, collecting firewood, and fetching water, occupy one to three hours of her time. This rhythm of steady work and steady leisure is maintained throughout the year. The male hunters tend to work more frequently than the women, but their schedule is uneven. It is not unusual for a man to hunt avidly for a week and then do no hunting at all for two or three weeks. During these periods, visiting, entertaining, and especially dancing are the primary activities of men.(17)

## The Trauma of Domestication

"Everyone can feel the nothingness, the void, just beneath the surface of everyday routines and securities."

-John Zerzan

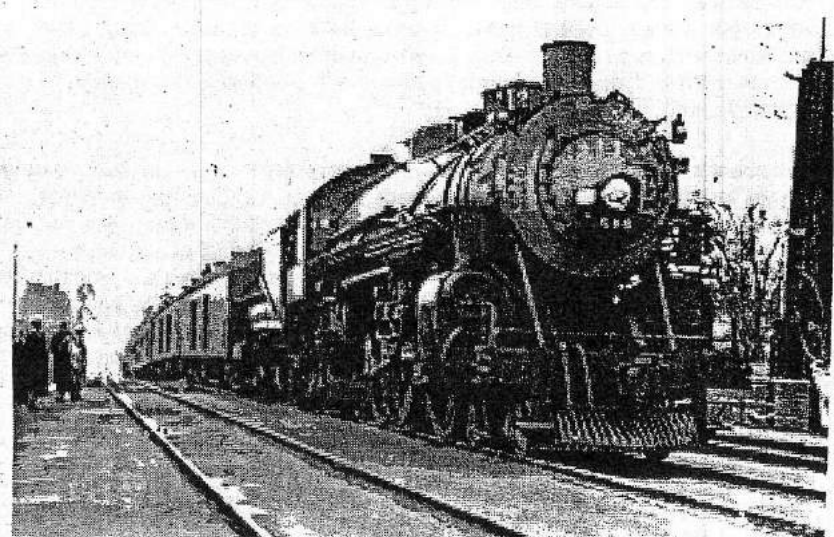
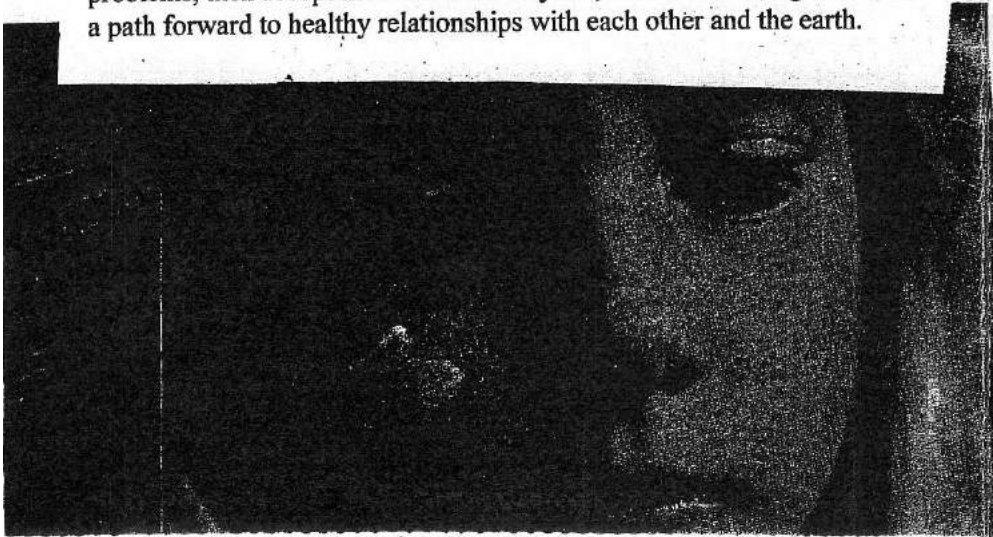
When asked about the pain of waxing her legs one woman replied, "It's not as bad as getting beat up by your dad everyday." It is estimated that 95% of American families can be diagnosed with some sort of dysfunction. Why is violence, depression and sexual abuse so rampant in our society? More and more we here of workers and students killing each other in a hopeless rage. Television fills our heads with violence and sexual drama. Suicide rates are climbing, A.D.D, Prozac, anorexia, clear cuts, anxiety, Ritalin, slaughterhouses, Zoloft... Women feel insecure and are obsessed with beauty. Men strive for power and lash out violently. Wars, murder, rape... This is sickness! Our immersion in technology and consumer culture adds fuel to the fire. But we've been standing in the inferno for so long we don't see the flames anymore we just fell it burning our flesh and minds. We are sick! This is so unhealthy. I am reminded of a very ironic and sad story that in a way embodies the human condition in civilized life. A group of scientists/vivisectors were studying trauma and maternal relations in monkeys. The vivisectors conducted numerous experiments involving baby monkeys. They would take the baby away from her mother at birth and put her in a cage with an artificial mother made out of various man made materials. In the absence of her real mother the baby would cling to the artificial mother out of instinct for security and comfort. When the baby would cling to the artificial mother the vivisectors would push a button and spikes would shoot out of the fake mother or an electric shock would be sent through her. The baby's natural reaction to this pain is to cling tighter to her "mother". As she clings tighter the pain gets worse. The monkey is exposed to this treatment all through her adolescence and when she reaches maturity she is impregnated to view her reaction as a mother. They did this experiment to hundreds of monkeys and they all had similar reactions. Some just abandoned their babies and ignored them but most of them reacted violently, crushing their baby's skull with their teeth,

grinding their heads on the floor, or smashing them on the wall, usually resulting in death. This is a result of trauma, a sickness. The baby clinging to the spikes of the artificial mother develops neurotic and violently in reaction to this trauma. The ironic part of this story is that the vivisectors were studying the effects of trauma and how they are passed from generation to generation but like the mother killing her own baby, the vivisectors are neurotic, cold, uncaring, sadistic and brutal because of the trauma of our culture, our sick society, and has its roots in the trauma of domestication itself. How could healthy human beings do this to other living beings without even thinking about it? When I think of our world, the human condition, and about the sickness that dominates our lives it makes me so sad. Trauma plays out in our lives passed on through the generations in the forms of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, sexual dysfunction and violence, depression, hate, anger, suicide, desperation, and hopelessness. Our unhealthy ways are also devastating the earth in the form of dwindling forests, devastated mountains, barren landscapes, poisoned skies and oceans, and mass extinction to put it mildly. Domestication is the process of putting barriers and boundaries on things that aren't meant to have such. When we fell from natural living with the onset of agriculture about 10,000 years ago we became detached from the rest of the world, detached from our roots, confined in an ever developing culture of sickness perpetuating the trauma of our loss of natural living. Civilization is dysfunction. Domestication is traumatizing to us all. Not only do we deal with the trauma of previous generations but we are being pushed more and more away from real life, from real relationships with each other and our natural environment. We need to heal. We need to return to good health. First we must recognize the problems, then accept them for what they are, then work through them on a path forward to healthy relationships with each other and the earth.

neurological disorders, and nearly every disease you would care to name are all symptoms of a way of life that has no healthy direction left. Random violence is now an everyday occurrence in our society, and people lash out violently at each other just to feel *something*. We are living a lie, convincing ourselves that these types of things are completely normal – because we've never known another way.

The fact is that another way does exist, if we would only open our eyes and see it. For billions of years, this planet has functioned beautifully and harmoniously, and animals (and for over 2 million years, humans too) have lived healthy, full, happy lives (comparatively, because after all, civilization is as much a bane to them as us) without civilization to rescue them and their health. Humans are just as much animals as any other, yet we seem to think we just happen to be the species who drew the short straw and ended up with a multitude of diseases and poor health.

Our high-tech medical science may occasionally spare us some of the physical pain caused by civilization, but it will never mend the giant void inside us. Their cures are topical, and the problem is deep inside – our only hope for a healthy, sane world is to abandon once and for all the cancer known as civilization.



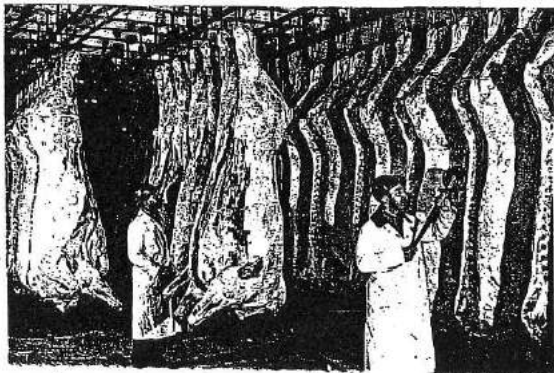


along with the steady advancement of medical science. Why is that 1 out of 6 people in America, the country which holds the claim to fame of being the most over-medicated and sophisticated when it comes to medical technology, will develop some form of cancer in their lifetimes?

Our culture is obsessed with the idea of a "quick fix" for everything, and we will pop any pill that gets rid of a temporary ailment regardless of whether the side effects end up killing us. People used to have an acute knowledge of what plants could be used to better one's health, but we've traded in knowledge of the earth for dependence on industrialism.

Most sickness and disease is caused in one form or another by civilization. Cancer, unheard of before civilization, is now reaching epidemic proportions. Diabetes is a direct result of the unhealthy, processed diets consumed by most civilized people. We create new diseases every day and come back the next with a miracle cure for them – how much longer will this cycle continue?

It seems like the further we get from nature, the more sick we become. The more we separate ourselves from the rest of life, and isolate ourselves internally and externally from the natural world, the clearer it becomes that civilization is not healthy. Cancer, diabetes, millions of people sedated on anti depressants – sometimes as young as 2 years old, suicide, eating disorders,



Neurosis is a disease that affects us all on different levels. It is ignored and not recognized because it is inherent to civilization, even though it is beyond epidemic. It originates in us from that "nothing" that lies at the very core of our existence and from every single traumatic experience that we go through and every trauma that is passed on from the generations. Its building. Freud predicted that the fullness of civilization would mean universal neurotic unhappiness. Images of a horror movie come to mind in which we are all zombies, the living dead, sick and dying creatures unaware of our own disease. I can think of my own neurotic development. Sometimes I will get really depressed and I can feel it like any other physical sickness, surging through my body. There is no word to quite describe it. It is part rage, desperation, hopelessness and fear. I can feel it. Once it reaches a certain level violence is its only vent. Mine is mild but suicide and masochism dominate my thinking when I feel this way. This is all stuff that is taboo in our society; it isn't talked about or even recognized. I'm tired of there being no dialogue on the subject. Our mental health is who we are and how we function. What could be more important than that? There are so many aspects to neurosis. It affects us all differently on different levels. Gatherer-hunters have no neurotic behavior. I wish I knew what that was like. I can only imagine what it means to be truly content. This disease along with almost all the diseases we know come with civilization. Or maybe it is better said that they are the side effects of THE Disease; mere symptoms of a greater plague, civilization itself.

## DOMESTICATION

From Green Anarchy

Domestication began – first in the (once) Fertile Crescent in the Near East (modern day Iraq) – some 12,000 years ago. Though it took a few thousand years for this process and the property and power it produced to necessitate the military defense and social control strategy of civilization, it was the first mistake in the series leading to modernity. Domestication is the process by which human beings tame, control, breed, and genetically modify other forms of life. It is also the process by which previously nomadic human populations shift towards a sedentary or settled existence. The first kind of domestication, that of the human control of life, necessitates a totalitarian relationship with

both the land and the plants and animals being domesticated. Where as in the true state of wildness, all life competes for resources in a limited way (i.e. seldom is more taken from any resource than needed at one time); domestication destroys that balance. The domesticated landscape (e.g. pastoral lands/agricultural fields, and to some extent – though to a much lesser degree—horticulture and gardening) necessitates the end of open sharing of the resources that exist or formerly existed on that landscape. The domesticated landscape is the statement that where “once this was everyone’s, it is now mine.” Arguably this notion of ownership laid the foundation for social hierarchy as property and power emerged. Domestication does not only change the ecology of the landscape from free to totalitarian, it enslaves the species that are domesticated. While the wheat and corn, pigs and horses were once freely dancing in the chaos of nature, they have come under the control of human captors that literally twist their genes to their will. Generally the more an environment is controlled, the less sustainable it is: the most sustainable type of domestication in existence are the practices of horticulture gardeners that work within—not against—natural cycles and are small scale.

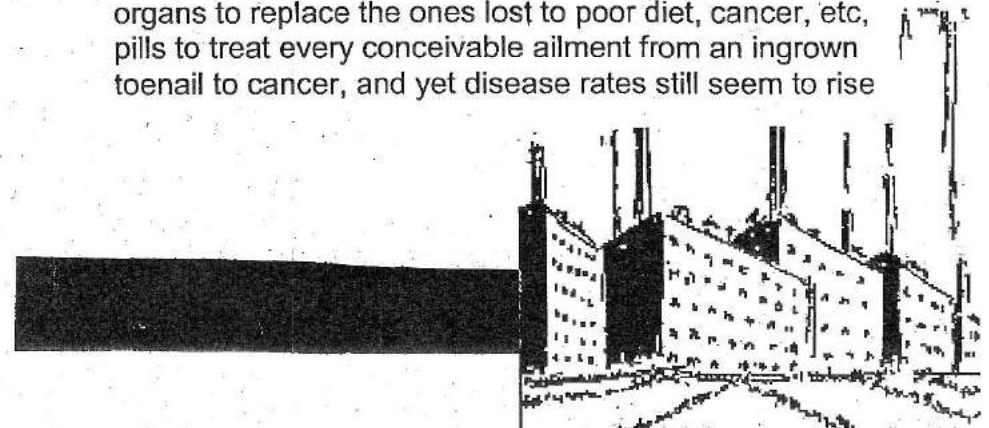
The second kind of domestication – that of humans themselves – involves many trade-offs in comparison to the foraging nomadic mode. It is worth noting here that most of the shifts made from nomadic foraging to domestication were not made autonomously, they were made at the tip of the sword and gun. Whereas only 2000 years ago the majority of the world population were gatherer-hunters, now it is .01%. This fact is not a result of a collective informed decision of the last wild and free humans to the way of slavery and ruin. The path of domestication has involved more than the enslavement of once free populations throughout the planet. It has meant myriad pathologies for the conquering population and the originators of the practice. Several examples include a decline in nutritional health due to over reliance on non-diverse diets, almost 40-60 diseases integrated into the human populations per domesticated animal (influenza, the common cold, tuberculosis, etc.), the emergence of surplus which can be used to feed a population out of balance and invariably involves property and an end to unconditional sharing, the first ever problems resulting from disposal of and proximity to excrement, the rise of ideal host environments for parasites, and the capacity for diseases to be carried on through generations as the artificial environment buffers natural selection.

## Health and Civilization

One of the most frequent arguments against a return to earth-based living is the claim that we would all be leading horrible, short lives wrought with disease and pain. Civilization is seen as our benevolent savior which rescued us from a life of a primitive – “brutish, nasty, and short” as some have put it. But how much of our current diseased existence is a result of abandonment of earth-based living? I’ll attempt to make the case that civilization is the greatest assault on health and well-being in the history of life on Earth.

One need only look around to see the effect that the civilizing process has on our bodies and minds. One look in the empty, despaired faces of billions of people who have had hope, happiness and love violently stolen from them, and there’s no more deluding ourselves that we can continue down this path without consequence. Domestication steals our lives by turning us into weak, dependent, violent, selfish creatures, which leads to creation of and dependence on ways of life that by necessity are violent and selfish. This entire process wreaks havoc on us physically, emotionally, and mentally to the point where we don’t even see ourselves as being sick – “it’s just the way things are”.

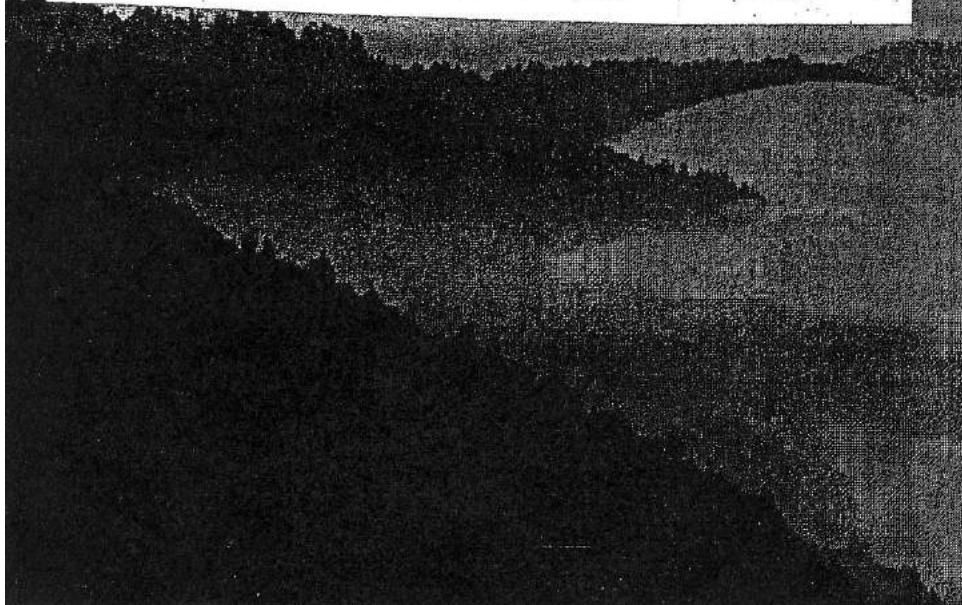
We have machines to keep people breathing, artificial organs to replace the ones lost to poor diet, cancer, etc, pills to treat every conceivable ailment from an ingrown toenail to cancer, and yet disease rates still seem to rise





## Humans are Anarchists

For 99% of human history humans have been anarchists. Anarchy means "without rulers"; it is a synonym for anti-authoritarianism; it is a lack of hierarchy and domination. Anarchy is freedom; freedom from outside control. Every living being as the right to do whatever they want. If someone of something tries to control, harm, or exploit another being they should expect resistance. I think when anarchy is properly explained most people would identify with it. For millions of years humans have lived wild and free, like all other animals, without coercion and domination. They have lived (and still do live outside of our culture) healthy and genuine lives, by no means painless but always genuine. They are not perfect but their way of life works, they maintain healthy relationships with each other and their surroundings while dealing with problems. As our religions know that civilization will fall they also know of the paradise that existed before civilization such as the Garden of Eden; humans living with nature. Contrary to what our culture teaches us, naturally humans are anarchists. Does it matter that we can use the word anarchy to describe the way humans naturally live? No. A healthy and sustainable way of living is what is important, not an ideal or symbolic word. Anarchy is a state of being not an ideology.



## Short Story of the Day

(from Be Your Own Bomb)

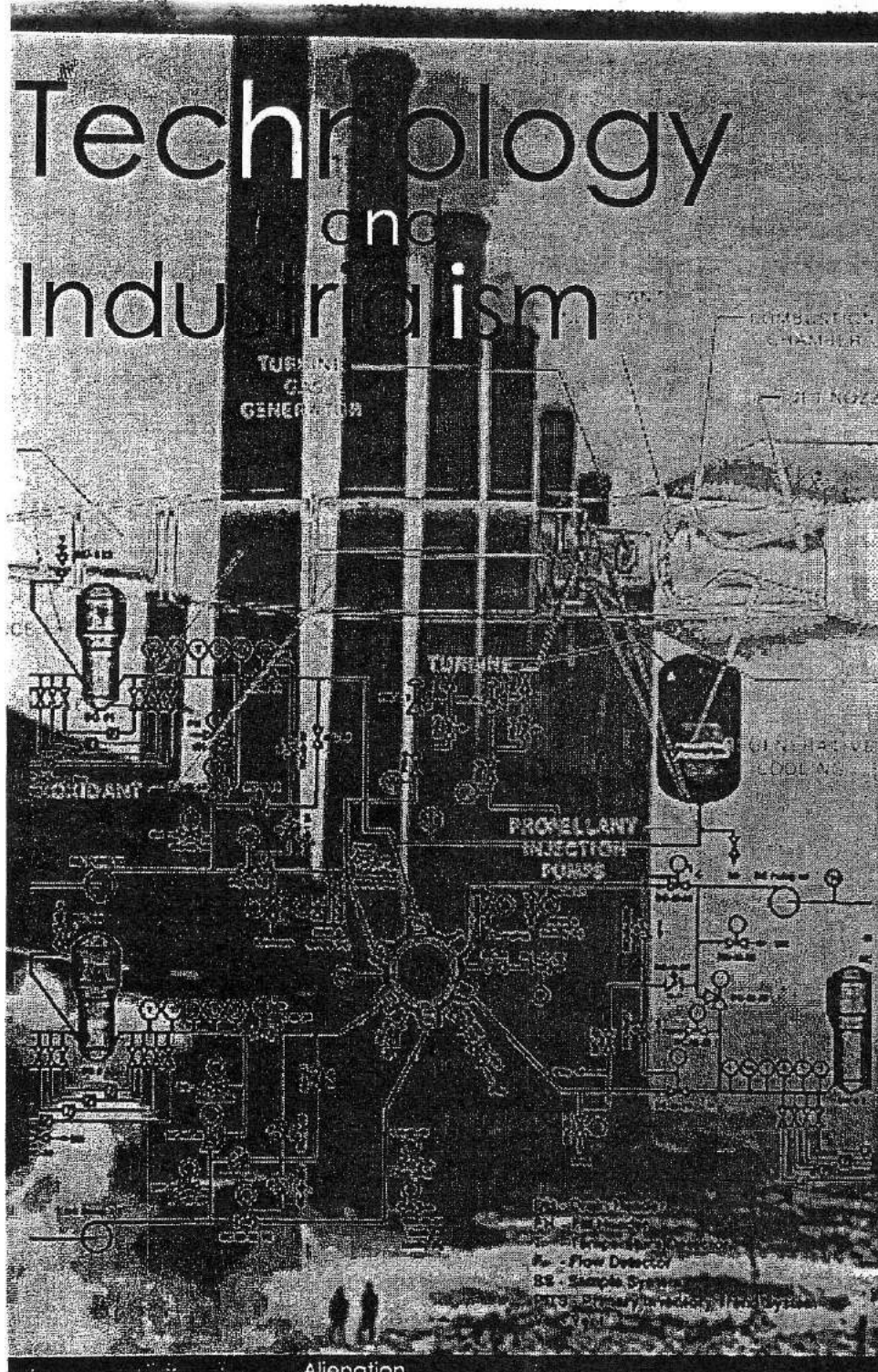
Humans appear 3 million years ago.  
We organize ourselves in the form of  
gathering and hunting groups to  
survive.

We develop agriculture 10,000 years ago.

One hundred years from now we  
may all be dead.

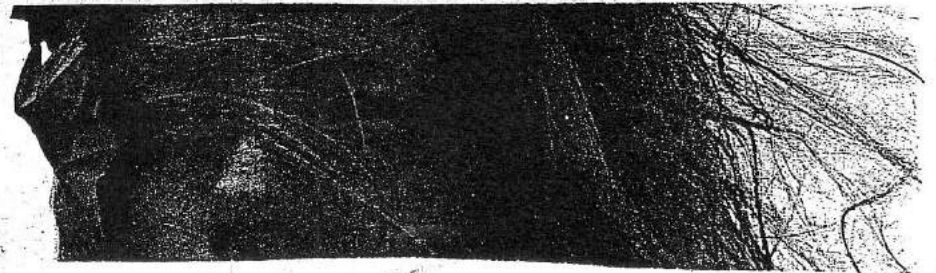
The End.





## Human Life

Set aside politics and let's consider the physical reality of human life. Humans are animals that are no different from any other animal. We all feel pain and joy. We all live on this planet co-existing with the natural cycles that make life possible. All animals are unique. Humans aren't better because we can think symbolically, make tools or dominate the earth. (Actually some of these traits are leading to our own demise.) Just like birds aren't better because they can fly or octopi because they can change their color and texture in camouflage. We all have evolved to best suit our different environments. As much as we like to tell ourselves differently, the universe was not created for *us*. Our culture tells us to always think of things hierarchically, always better or worse, never just different. For most of human history we have lived as a part of these natural systems and cycles interacting with each other symbiotically. Naturally humans live in tribes. Just like wolves are meant to live in packs, ants in colonies, geese in flocks, or buffalo in herds, humans are meant to live in small tribes varying in size from ten or twenty people to as many as one or two hundred. Humans are also gatherers (though still called hunter-gatherers), foraging for most of their food and it wasn't until fairly recently when humans began migrating to harsher climates that people became more dependent on hunting. Typically most people still think of human life before civilization as savage barbarians on the brink of starvation struggling to survive in a kill or be killed world. Actually it was and is just the opposite. Gatherers or nature-based people live extremely healthy, leisure, sustainable and generally happy lives in equality with each other and harmony with their environment. They live this way because humans have evolved and adapted over millions of years to optimally function in the most secure and sustainable way. Civilization started with the development of agriculture a mere 10,000 years ago and the history of civilization is a picture of domination, starvation for 95% of the population, slavery, war, sexism, sickness, greed poverty, hierarchy, genocide, famine, emptiness, extinction, destruction,... etc. Basically what it comes down to is their way of life works and ours doesn't.



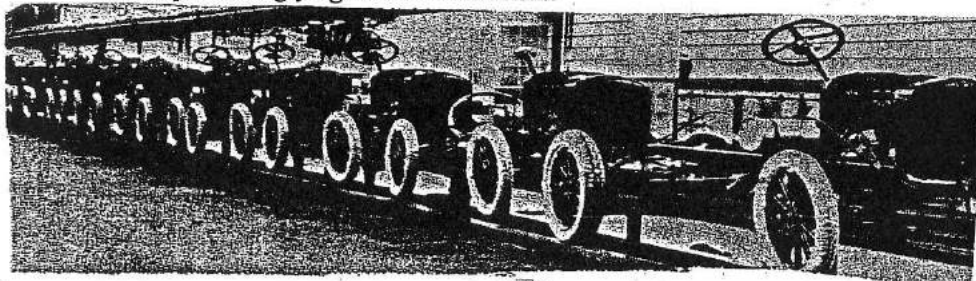


# INDUSTRIALISM

From Green Anarchy

Industrialism- the existence of complex mechanized systems of production that are built upon centralized power and the exploitation of people and nature. A critique of industrialism is a natural extension of the anarchist critique of the state, because industrialism is inherently imperialistic, genocidal, ecocidal, and patriarchal. In order to maintain an industrial society, you must set out to conquer and colonize lands in order to acquire non-renewable resources, you must force cultural chauvinism, In the process of acquiring these non-renewable resources, you must force people off of their land. And in order to make people work in the factories that produce the machines, you must enslave people, or hoard the resources that they are dependent upon for their survival, as a means to coerce them into entering the mines, toiling in the factories, and otherwise subjecting themselves to the destructive industrial system. Industrialism cannot exist without massive centralization because it cannot exist without massive specialization; class-domination is a tool of the industrial system that denies people access to knowledge, making people helpless and easy to exploit. Furthermore, industrialism demands that resources be shipped from all over the globe in order to perpetuate its existence, and this globalism undermines local autonomy and self-sufficiency. Industrialism is inherently patriarchal because it is essentially anti-life and objectifying by its very nature. In the eyes of the industrialist, women and nature are here for men to exploit for material gain. It is a mechanistic world-view that is behind industrialism. This is the same world-view that has justified slavery, exterminations, and the subjugation of women. It would be obvious to all that industrialism is not only oppressive for humans, but that it is also fundamentally ecologically destructive.

Industrialism means sucking the earth dry with mining operations and oil drilling; contaminating ecosystems, the air, and the water, with chemical agents. Nuclear energy, the backbone of the advanced industrial economy, may soon render this planet uninhabitable if it is not deconstructed. For these reasons and others, we are uncompromisingly against industrialism.



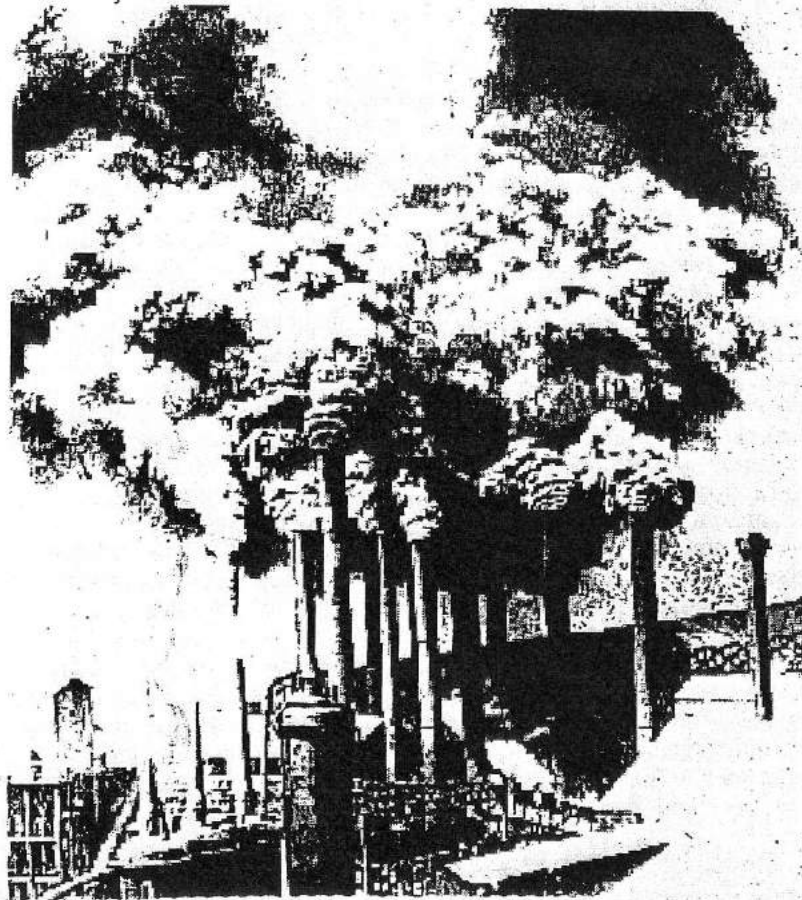
## Technology and Industrial Process

Technology is often viewed as a neutral tool; without social or political implications. It is viewed as something that makes our lives better and easier. It promises to bring us closer and add convenience and comfort to our lives. But does it even live up to its promises and at what expense? Technology brings images of a computer or a television but it is better understood when thought of as a system, ideology or religion that our culture follows with unquestioned faith. "Progress" is capitalism's dictum; always moving forward and advancing. Advancing into what? Capitalism is dependent on always developing new technology that pushes us further and further from each other and real life. Capitalism constantly needs new markets and the people running this monstrous machine have no concern for the effects of technology on life and our planet. They only care about money and progress. ten years ago we survived just fine without cell phones, email and the internet. All the time spent writing e-mail, talking on cell phones, or surfing the web could be spent developing healthy genuine personal relationships. What about cars? We're boxed in from everyone else travelling at an insane speed cut off from the air, wind, sunshine, rain, trees, grass, birds and moon. We watch blurred images of these things hurdle by through the window screen as we sit in conditioned air listening to the soundtrack to oblivion. It is no different than sitting in conditioned air watching blurred images flash across the TV screen at home. What about dancing in the rain, climbing trees, smelling spring flowers, and watching the sun rise. Instead we drive to work where we work on developing or producing technology then drive home to recover from work by watching TV then spending the money made from work on new technology to make our lives "easier" just to go to bed and do it over again the next day.

Technology has so many implications. We play video games, have dvd players in our SUV's and worry about which ring we should use on our cell phones while the rest of the world is starving to death. One month internet bill could go a long way for a family in Mexico, India, Africa, etc, whose yearly income is less than \$200. But we need all this useless junk. To think otherwise is blasphemy. The cost or burden of our technological addiction is everywhere but where we look. Most of the worlds population lives in poverty while producing our useless junk. Acquiring the "natural resources" depends on destroying our environment. Our technology pushes us further from real interactions and relationships with life. The production of technology requires industrial process. Industrial process requires the division of labor, hierarchy, and the exploitation of people and the earth. Industrial process obviously requires the division of labor and specialization which means, among many other things, that agriculture is needed to feed these workers which isnt sustainable in itself. In order for these operations to work they have to be profitable and for them to be profitable they depend on the exploitation of people and our environment and when people are exploited hierarchy and domination are needed to keep them working.

Syndicalists and Marxists like to think that industrial process can function without coercion but its that coercion and exploitation that makes it work in the first place let alone the fact that there is no way for it to be ecologically sustainable. Leftists just have a hard time letting go.

So much time, energy, and resources are used in developing technology. Lets take a look at the industrial process of manufacturing a car. First wars are waged on any people living on land with natural resources. They can either be exterminated or enslaved. Forests, mountains, oceans, and deserts, are destroyed to extract the oil, iron, coal, etc. mines and roads are built. Cheap labor is necessary, so the slaves talked about before are very useful (wage-slavery is still slavery). The resources are mined and shipped to plants to be processed. These plants fill the air with toxins and dump poison in the rivers. The iron, steel, plastic, rubber and other materials are shipped to be made into parts. The parts are shipped to be assembled, then shipped again to be put together as a car. Each step requiring transportation, usually halfway around the world, cheap labor, and environmental destruction. The car is shipped and sold, alienating the passangers, polluting the air, and being one of leading causes of death when they impact another object. Is this not insanity?



## TECHNOLOGY

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Technology is more of a process or concept than a static form. It is a complex-system involving division of labor, resource extraction, and exploitation for the benefit of those who implement its process. Technology is distinct from simple tools in many regards. A simple tool is a temporary usage of an element within our immediate surroundings which is used to help with a specific task. Tools do not involve a complex system which alienates the user from the act. Implicit in technology is this separation, creating a mediated experience which leads to various forms of domination. Our domination increases every time a new "time-saving" technology is created, as it necessitates the construction of more technology to support, fuel, maintain and repair the original technology. This has led very rapidly to the establishment of a complex technological system that seems to have an existence independent from the humans who created it and where the power relationships between the "inventor" and the "invention" clearly favor the interests of the Machine itself. Discarded by-products of the Technological System are polluting both our physical and our psychological environment. Lives stolen in service of the Machine and toxic effluent of the Technological System's fuels – both are choking us. Technology is replicating itself now, with something resembling mechanical, artificial sentience. The Technological System is a planetary infection, propelled forward by its own momentum, that is rapidly ordering a new kind of environment, one designed for mechanical efficiency and technological expansionism alone. It's questionable whether the ruling class (who still benefit economically and politically form the Technological System) really have any control over their "Frankenstein monster" at this point. The Technological System methodically destroys, eliminates, or subordinates the natural world, and does not allow the earth to restore itself or even to enter into a symbiotic relationship with it. Technology is constructing a world fit only for machines and the ideal for which the technological system strives is the mechanization of everything it encounters. If we want to be more than "servo-mechanisms" or cyborg lackeys of technology then we have to recognize its domination over us and work to dismantle the system that has been built around the needs of machines, and not free life-forms.

